

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue comprising:

    a first handle member;

    a second handle member;

    first and second mating curved jaw members associated with the first and second handle members, respectively, the jaw members being movable by the handle members between a first open position and a second clamped position;

    a first elongated electrode extending along the first jaw member;

    a second elongated electrode extending along the second jaw member;

    the first and second electrodes being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source so that, when activated, the first and second electrodes are of opposite polarity.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein the electrodes are between approximately 3 to 8 cm when in length and approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm in width.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein the electrodes comprise gold-plated copper.

4. A tissue grasping apparatus comprising:

    first and second grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions; each jaw

including an elongated electrode and a curved clamping surface in face-to-face relation with the electrode and curved clamping surface of the other jaw; the curved clamping surfaces of the jaws comprising an insulating material and the face-to-face electrodes being of opposite polarity and connectible to a power source for providing an electrical current between the electrodes.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the parallel grasping jaws spaced apart between approximately 3 to 8 cm in length and approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm in width.

6. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the electrodes comprise gold-plated copper.